

REMARKS

IDS

The present Office Action indicates that certain portions of the prior art listed in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) dated 10 December, 2003, have not been considered by the Examiner because the Examiner was unable to find these documents in Parent Application No. 10/434,384 after diligent search. In fact, the documents of interest reside in Parent Application Nos. 09/035,273; 08/834,952; and 10/119,534; not in Application No. 10/434,384. Accordingly, a new IDS is being filed with this response which correctly indicates which parent applications contain the documents of interest. The undersigned attorney regrets any inconvenience this error may have caused the Examiner.

CLAIMS

Claims 46-100 were pending in the application at the time the present Office Action was mailed. Of these claims, claims 46-80 and 85-100 were allowed, claim 81 was rejected, and claims 82-84 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 81, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the features of base claim 81 and any intervening claims.

In the interest of expediting prosecution, claim 81 has been cancelled without commenting on or conceding the merits of the rejection of this claim, and without prejudice to pursuing this claim in a continuing application. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 81 is now moot.

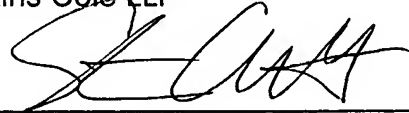
Claim 82 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the features of corresponding base claim 81. Accordingly, the objection to claim 82 should be withdrawn. Claims 83 and 84 have been amended to depend from base claim 82. Accordingly, the objections to dependent claims 83 and 84 should also be withdrawn. Claims 46, 58, 63, 69, 73, 78, 82, 85, 89 and 99 have been amended to broaden certain aspects of these claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6351.

Respectfully submitted,

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